Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1 – 10 (withdrawn)

11. (currently amended) A device for removing proteases from biological fluids and pharmaceutical solutions comprising a housing having a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet, said housing containing ~~four~~ a plurality of membrane bodies arranged therein in series, wherein said membrane bodies each ~~comprise~~ consist essentially of a functionalized microporous membrane body containing functional groups capable of chemically coupling with protease inhibitors and at least one protease inhibitor capable of selectively binding with proteases, wherein said at least one protease inhibitor is coupled by a nonionic chemical bond to said membrane body via said functional groups.

12. (original) The device of claim 11 wherein said membrane bodies each contain a different protease inhibitor capable of binding with a protease selected from the group consisting of an acidic protease, a metalloprotease, a cysteine protease and a serine protease.

13. (currently amended) The device of claim 12 wherein said protease inhibitor capable of binding with an acidic protease is pepstatin; said protease inhibitor capable of binding with a metalloprotease is selected from the group consisting of bestatin, diprotin and EDTA; said protease inhibitor capable of binding with a ~~cystein~~ cysteine protease is selected from the group consisting of antipain, chymostatin, leupeptin and E64; and said protease inhibitor capable of

binding with a serine protease is selected from the group consisting of TLCK and p-

aminobenzamidine.

14. (original) The device of claim 11 wherein said membrane bodies each

contain two different protease inhibitors.

15. (original) A method for removing proteases from fluids comprising feeding

a protease-containing fluid to the device of any of claims 11-14.